

# Civil Surgeon Tuberculosis Technical Instructions

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# Knowledge Check

**TB cases are going up in the United States?**

**True or False**

# Knowledge Check

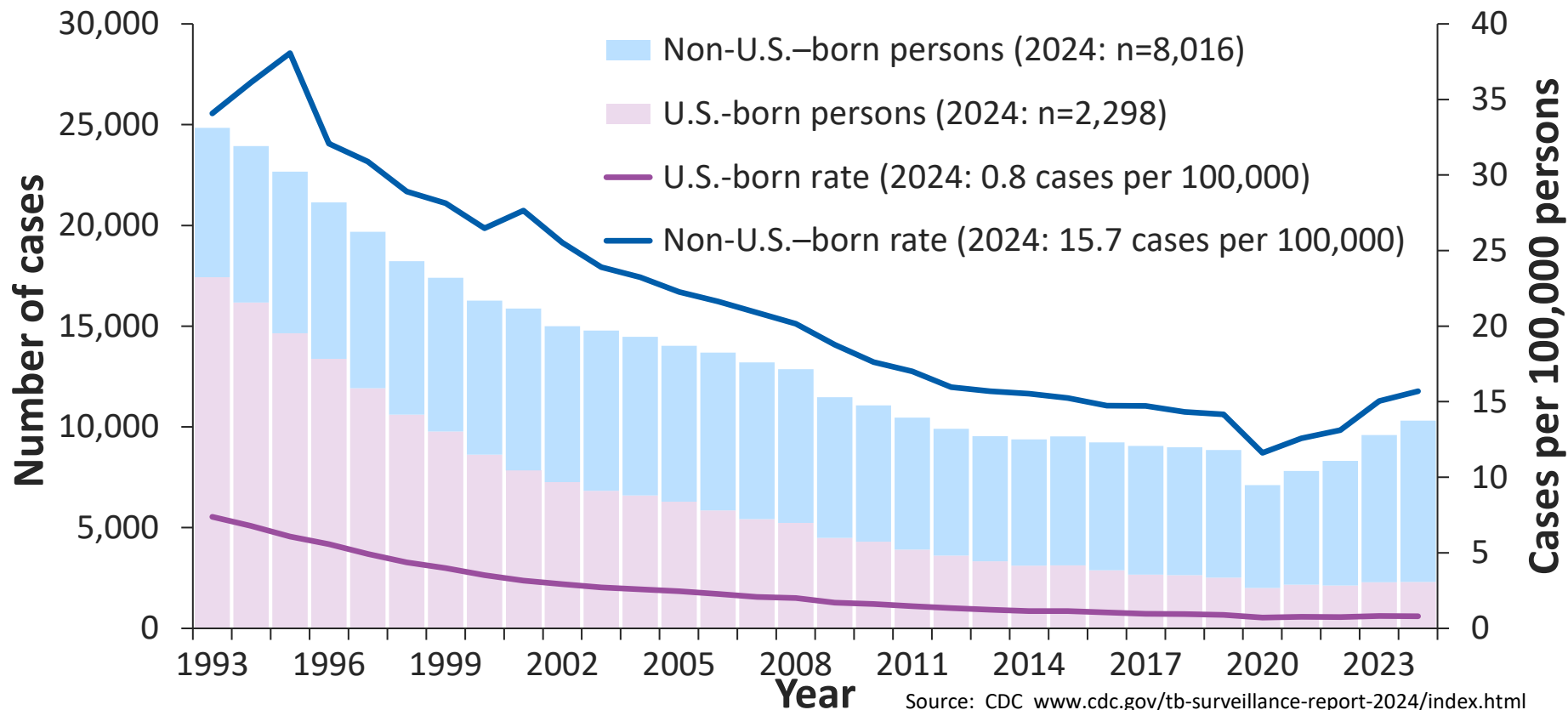
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**True or False**

**Answer: True**

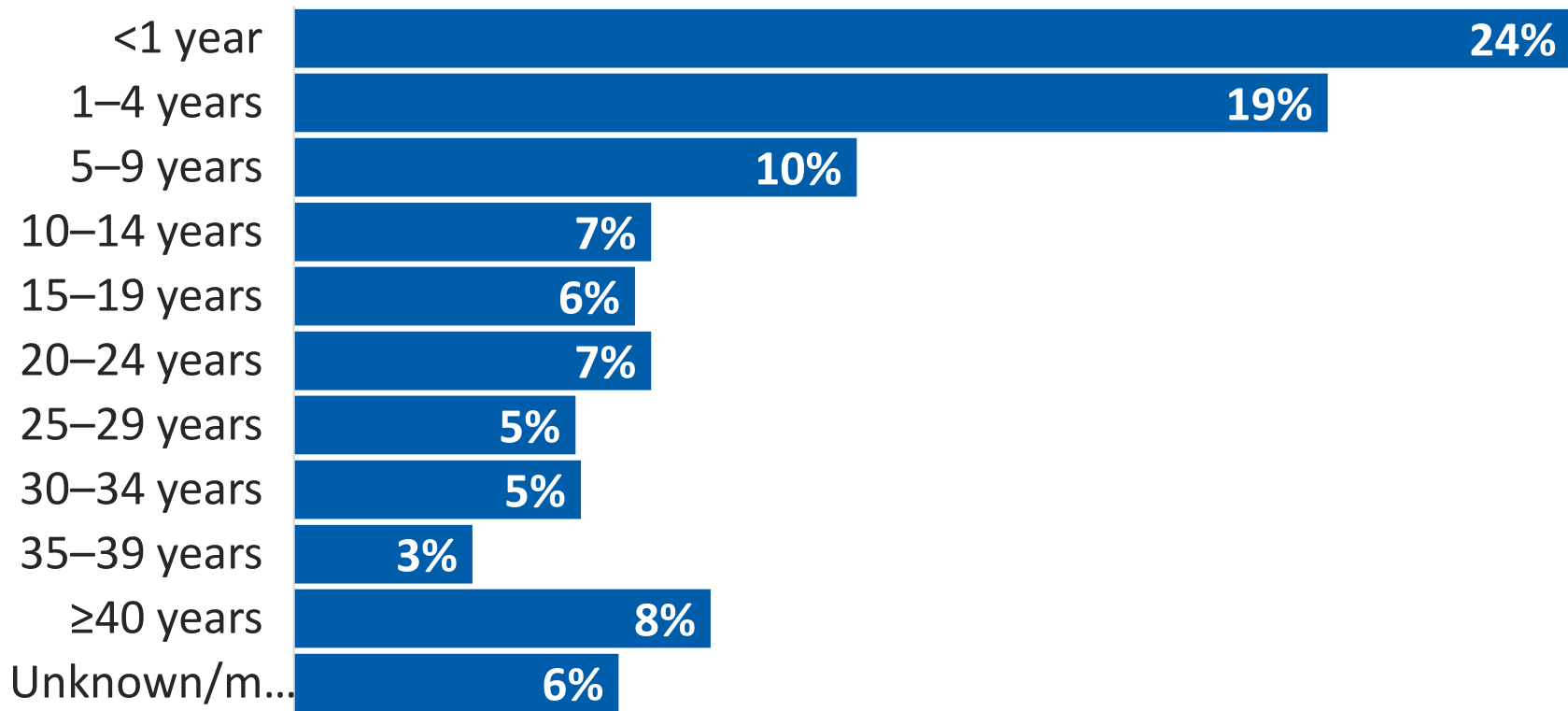
# Trends in Tuberculosis

# TB Cases and Incidence Rates by Origin of Birth,\* United States, 1993–2024



\*Persons born in the United States, certain U.S. territories, or elsewhere to at least one U.S. citizen parent are categorized as U.S.-born. All other persons are categorized as non-U.S.-born.

## Percentage of TB Cases Among Non-U.S.–Born\* Persons by Years Since Arrival in the United States Prior to Diagnosis, 2024 (N=8,016)



Source: CDC [www.cdc.gov/tb-surveillance-report-2023/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/tb-surveillance-report-2023/index.html)

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# Technical Instructions

# Knowledge Check

What type of screening program is each immigrant medical exam part of?

- A) Time intensive screening program
- B) Active screening program
- C) Latent screening program
- D) Passive screening program
- E) Targeted screening program

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Answer: B

# Complete Screening Medical Examination

- Medical history
- Physical examination
- IGRA if 2 years old or older
- Chest x-ray (when required)
- Referral to the health department for evaluation for infectious tuberculosis (when required)

**FROM THE TIs!**

# Knowledge Check

In the Tuberculosis (TB) Technical Instructions (TIs), infectious TB disease is defined as:

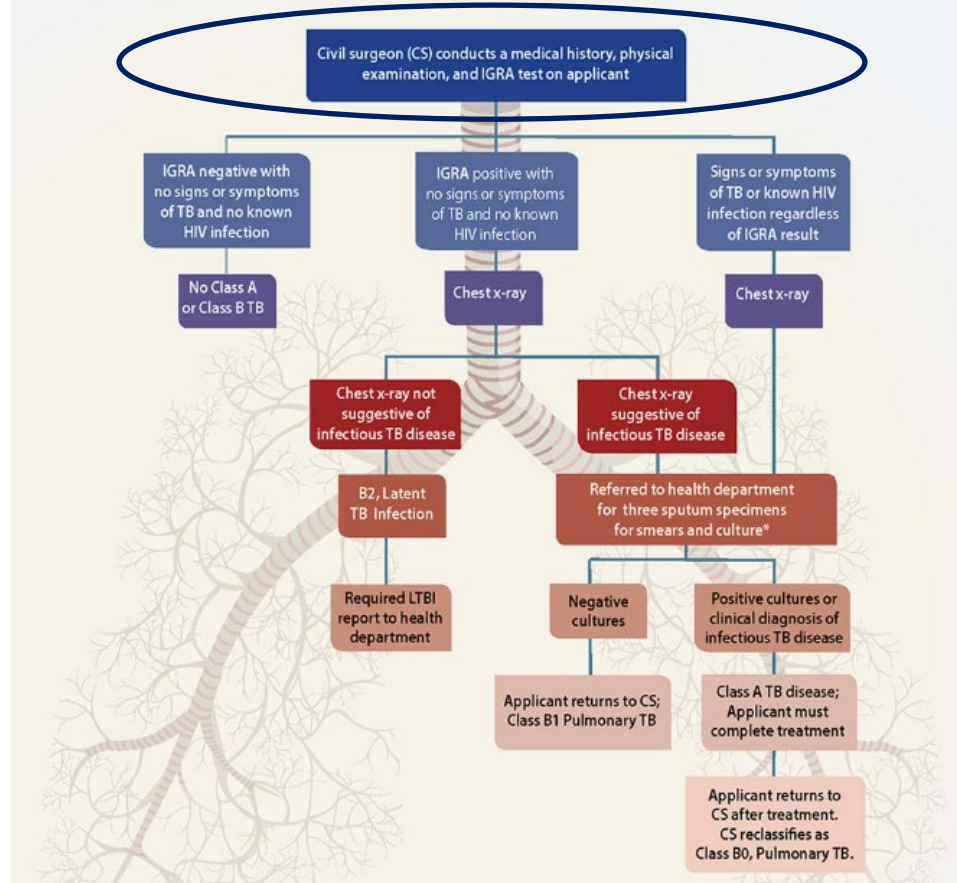
- A) Meningeal TB**
- B) TB in the abdominal lymph nodes**
- C) Latent TB infection**
- D) TB disease of the lung parenchyma, pleura, intrathoracic lymph nodes, or larynx**
- E) All the above**

# Knowledge Check

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- A) Meningeal TB**
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- E) All the above**
  
- F) Answer: D**

## Civil Surgeon Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Medical Examination for All Applicants 2 Years of Age or Older



# Symptoms

- Cough of >3 weeks duration
- Dyspnea
- Weight loss
- Fever
- Hemoptysis
- Night sweats

**FROM THE TIs!**

# IGRA

All applicants  $\geq 2$  years of age must have an interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA)

**FROM THE TIs!**

# IGRA

- **Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved two IGRA tests**
  - Qiagen QuantiFERON-TB
  - Revvity T.SPOT.TB
- **Both are acceptable**

**FROM THE TIs!**

# Knowledge Check

**A negative IGRA can rule out TB disease?**

**True or False**

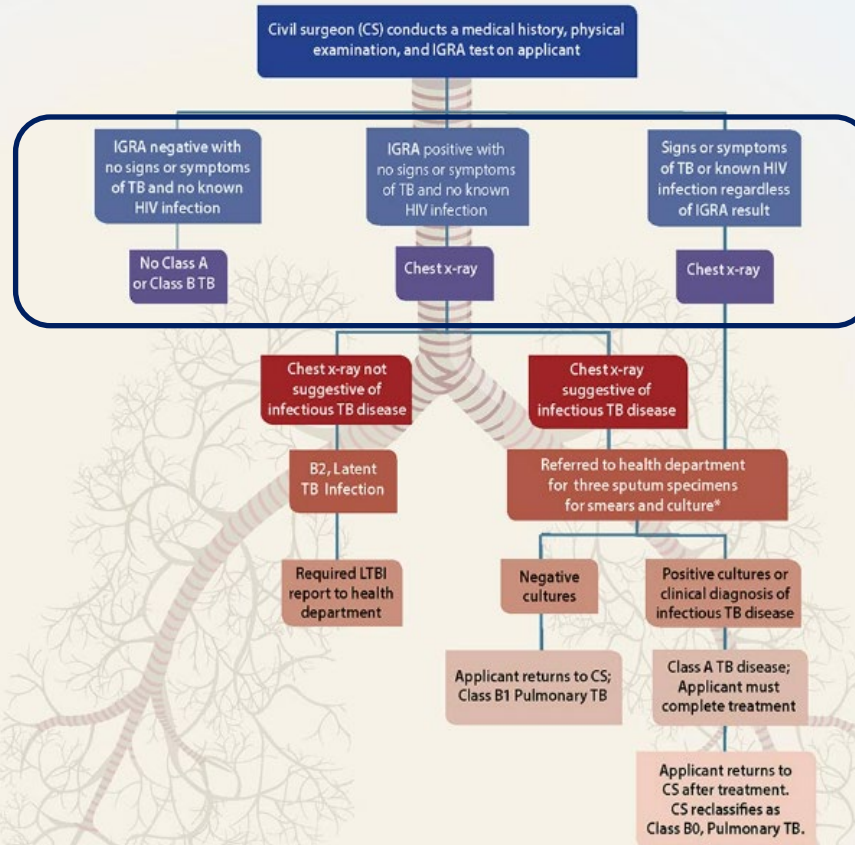
# Knowledge Check

**A negative IGRA can rule out TB disease?**

**True or False**

**Answer: False**

## Civil Surgeon Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Medical Examination for All Applicants 2 Years of Age or Older



# Who is Required to Have a CXR?

Required for all applicants who

- Have a positive IGRA result
- Have known HIV infection, regardless of IGRA result
- Have signs or symptoms of tuberculosis disease, regardless of IGRA result
- Have extrapulmonary tuberculosis, regardless of IGRA result

**FROM THE TIs!**

# Chest Radiography – Can it Diagnose?

Findings on a single CXR cannot confirm diagnosis of infectious tuberculosis disease

**FROM THE TIs!**

# Knowledge Check

**An applicant has a positive IGRA. Your office does not have an x-ray machine onsite. Who will perform her chest radiograph (CXR)?**

- A. Health department**
- B. Radiology facility that you make arrangements with**
- C. Patient will find a radiology facility**

## Knowledge Check

**An applicant has a positive IGRA. Your office does not have an x-ray machine onsite. Who will perform her chest radiograph (CXR)?**

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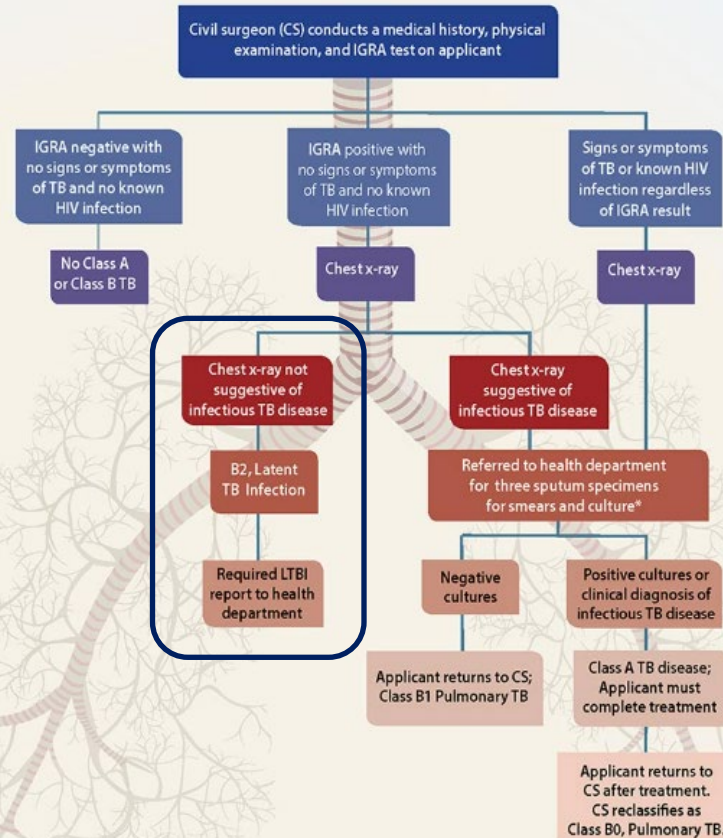
**Answer: B**

## Who Orders IGRA Test or CXR?

- Civil surgeons must not refer applicants to a health department for IGRA testing or chest x-ray
- All IGRAs and chest x-rays ordered by civil surgeons must be performed independently of a health department
  - Only exception is for civil surgeons who work at a health department

**FROM THE TIs!**

## Civil Surgeon Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Medical Examination for All Applicants 2 Years of Age or Older



## Class B2, Latent TB Infection

- **Positive IGRA but negative CXR**
- **Report findings to health department**
  - Health department may offer therapy
- **Treatment is not required to adjust status**
- **Treatment is not required before finalizing medical exam**

**FROM THE TIs!**

# Latent Tuberculosis Versus Infectious Tuberculosis Disease

## LTBI

- Also known as inactive TB
- TB bacteria can live in the body for years without making you sick
- Patients do not feel sick, do not have symptoms, and cannot spread TB to others
- Positive interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA) test but normal chest x-ray and if performed, negative laboratory tests (e.g., sputum smear or culture)
- Without treatment, inactive TB can develop into infectious TB disease

## Infectious Tuberculosis Disease

- Also known as active TB disease
- Signs and symptoms of TB disease
- Can spread TB to others
- Usually has positive IGRA test
- May have abnormal chest x-ray
- May have positive laboratory tests (e.g., sputum smear or culture)
- Life-threatening illness
- Needs treatment to cure disease

Source: [www.cdc.gov/tb/about/inactive-tuberculosis.html](http://www.cdc.gov/tb/about/inactive-tuberculosis.html)

# Latent Tuberculosis Versus Infectious Tuberculosis Disease

## LTBI

- Positive IGRA with negative CXR (and no other reason to test sputum)
- Treatment to prevent future infectious TB disease
- **Treatment not required to adjust status**
- **Treatment not required to finalize medical examination**

## Infectious Tuberculosis Disease

- Physically sick with TB
- Can spread TB to others
- Needs treatment to cure disease
- **Needs treatment to adjust status**
- **Treatment complete before finalizing medical exam**

# Referral versus Reporting

## Refer

- Applicants with abnormal CXR suggestive of infectious tuberculosis disease to the health department of jurisdiction for further evaluation

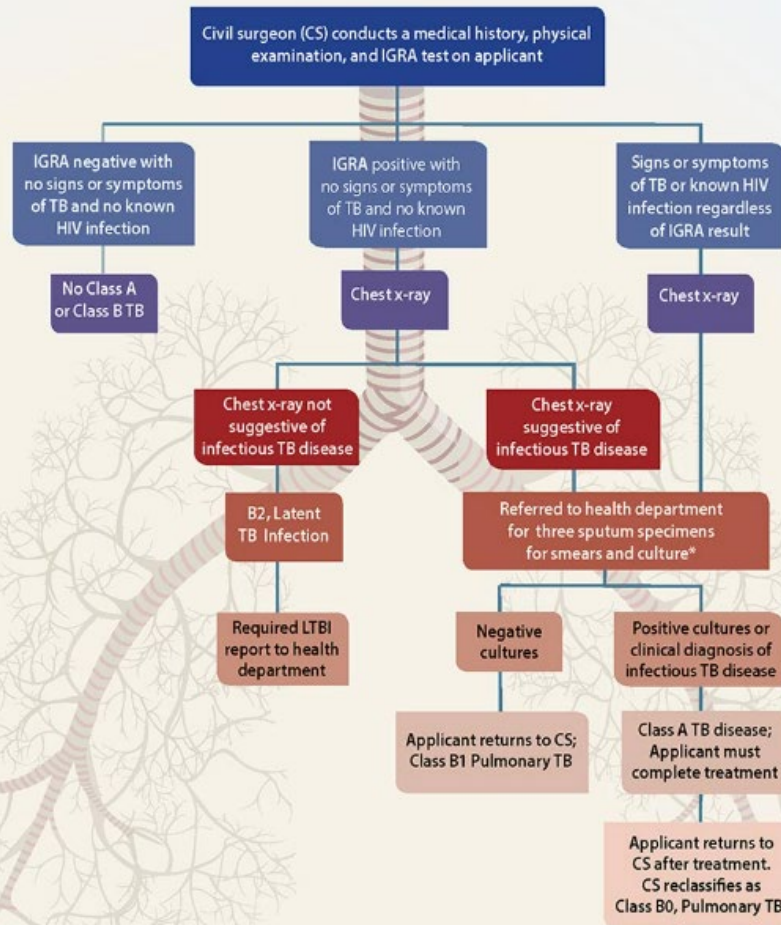
**FROM THE TIs!**

## Report

- If an applicant has a positive IGRA, but has no signs or symptoms of tuberculosis disease, a negative chest x-ray, and no known HIV infection, the applicant must receive a classification of Class B2 TB, Latent TB Infection, and must be reported to the health department of jurisdiction.

# People with a past history of a Tuberculosis Condition

## Civil Surgeon Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Medical Examination for All Applicants 2 Years of Age or Older



# Contacts

# Helpful Contact Information

[CivilSurgeons@cdc.gov](mailto:CivilSurgeons@cdc.gov) – questions on the Technical Instructions or medical aspects of the exam

[OPScivilsurgeons@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:OPScivilsurgeons@uscis.dhs.gov) – questions regarding the I-693 form, procedures, and applicant identification. Activate eMedical profile.

[NBCcivilsurgeons@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:NBCcivilsurgeons@uscis.dhs.gov) – update civil surgeon contact information or apply/terminate your civil surgeon designation

# Thank you!

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348 [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov)

The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

